

SEP 29 1989

Dear Charlie,

Charlie Schnabel has briefed me on legislative action regarding the Administration's request of \$70 million for the A.I.D. cross-border humanitarian assistance program and \$16 million in the International Organization account for transfer to the UN Special Coordinator, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. The Senate version envisages the full \$70 million for the cross-border program and \$13.5 million to be added to the IO account for Sadruddin.

I'm writing this note to underscore how important it is to our objectives in Afghanistan that the Senate version for Afghanistan be accepted. (I would note the Senate earmarks the \$70 million and, as you are aware, the Administration opposes earmarks.) As you know so well, we are at a critical juncture with the resistance in providing full support for their efforts to overthrow the PDPA. Any lessening of that support would undercut those efforts at this time. Since the Soviet pullout, we have not diminished our aid -- a valuable sign that we intend to stay the course.

I would just like to reinforce Charlie Schnabel's reasons why the Senate amounts should be supported instead of the House version. Please allow me to add several other thoughts.

The \$70 million program was requested by the Administration for current cross-border humanitarian needs. The provision of \$13.5 million for the UN Trust Fund from the \$70 million in the House version would effectively reduce the level of cross-border activities currently underway or planned for FY 90, including a Narcotics Awareness and Control Project scheduled to begin implementation within the next several months, plus projects in health, education and agriculture.

Reduction would decrease benefits of the program to Afghans who have remained inside and signal to the Afghans that we have chosen to abandon them. Moreover, to cut the program would give substance to allegations that America's only interest in Afghanistan was to embarrass the Soviet Union.

Thanks for your help!

With Best Regards,